
ARENA REPORT

Volume III, Number 9

February 4, 1991

Welcome to another edition of "AR". Hope everyone had an enjoyable two weeks. There was no ICW/World Class taping at Disney so in this issue you'll see recaps of both the "Clash of The Champions" show as well as the WWF's prime time "Main Event". I have my "Editor Profile" that I promised last issue. I'll be requesting all my writers to do the same thing so you'll get a better insight into the personalities of this sheet. Marianne Ryan's column arrived just a tad after deadline last ish so it's in this one. Even the cynics will enjoy it as she takes a look at what wrestlers the other boys enjoy working with most. Scott Hudson takes a look at the recent WWF tapings that were held in Macon, GA in his journal. Evan Ginzburg looks at the generic wrestling fan in his "Piece Of My Mind". Mike Terry is along with another "Two Cents" and one hilarious idea for Vince Jr. "Correspondent's Corner", "Ramblings", and letters round out the issue.

Next issue will be cover dated 2/18. It will be mailed out a day late as I'll be attending the WWF taping in Orlando that night and I'll hold the issue for that info. It will also include a live WCW report from Jacksonville on 2/15. The card is absolutely loaded and with a main event of Flair-Gigante, they should draw great. Bad match to be sure but the fans should be intrigued. I'm looking forward to Sid & Hansen taking on the Southern Boys. What punishment. Klone will be by with his column "Under The Mushroom" and maybe in his profile he can shed some light on that title. Marianne comes back to back next issue with more talk from the lot.

Arena Report is published bi-weekly and cost \$1.00 per issue. The label on your envelope shows a number which indicates how many issues you have remaining on your subscription. All subs, renewals, letters, and match reports may be sent to Arena Report, P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795. Now let's go to Gainesville to see if WCW can deliver on this Clash.

CLASH REVIEW

1) Sting & Lex Luger beat Doom in 10:30 when Doom was DQ'd for backdropping Sting over the top rope. Teddy Long was nowhere to be found although Jim Ross and "Big Mouth" Rhodes did acknowledge his absence. Expected bout to be better. First time since Clash I that they cut to a commercial in the middle of a match. Pissed me off. Dan Spivey attacked Lex when he was outside the ring. This of course was done to hype their meeting at WRESTLE WAR. Bout seemed real disorganized. * $\frac{1}{2}$...2) Tom Zenk beat Bobby Eaton with a backslide in 7:06. Zenk had the TV title still. Are they going to pull a Vince and not acknowledge the switch to Arn? If it doesn't air this weekend, you have to wonder. What's with the canned Bobby chant. If they're trying to make him a face, just leave the old Midnight music. It was doing the job because most fans love Eaton anyway. *...3) The Freebirds downed Tommy Rich & Allen Iron Eagle in 5:52 when the Birds double DDT'd ultra green Iron Eagle. Did you catch Eagle not sell Hayes' left punch. Michael got pissed and teed off on the injun with some nasty chops. Wasn't like he didn't want to sell it, he didn't know he was supposed to. He's bad to the bone eh Dust? Dud 4) Sid Vicious destroyed Jumpin Joey Maggs (Yeah, he jumped right into the power bomb.) in 1:10. Do you think Dusty is going to push Sid big time or what? The effect of Sid on the roundtable was impressive looking. No grade since it was basically a squash....5) Terry Taylor pinned Ricky Morton in 11:51 after Ricky missed a dropkick near the ropes. I bet you couldn't have

guessed that Taylor was going to be the new member of the York Foundation when Cappetta announced Terry as the "computer man of the 90's". Sorry, computerized. Worse turn I've seen in ages. Jim Ross didn't even act shocked. Hell, he was probably still in shock from how the show with Dusty as color man was going. Didn't Ms. York just slap the shit out of Terry a month ago? So why the change of heart? They don't have to tell you. They just change the story-line. I know they had to replace Rotunda since he quit but why couldn't they have taken it slow and why not mention a reason for Mike being gone? ** $\frac{1}{4}$

6) Ranger Ross sunset flipped El Cubano from the ring apron at 3:02. This was a comp win for Ross since the war is going on. $\frac{1}{4}$ **...7) Barry Windham & Arn Anderson beat The Youngbloods in 7:29 when Barry superplexed Mark. Good action. ** $\frac{1}{4}$...8) Brian Pillman beat Buddy Lee Parker with a flying bodypress in 3:17. Not a bad match but I could see this on TBS on weekends. $\frac{1}{4}$ **...9) Missy Hyatt won the arm wrestling contest from Paul E. Dangerously when she took her jacket off and revealed (well, almost) her two battleships. I'm sure Paul has seen them like that numerous times since he was on the road with Eddie and Missy alot. I know there wasn't much else they could do with this but why all the hype? Waste of time....10) Ric Flair and Scott Steiner went to a draw at 24:23. They had me fooled. Before the bout even started I wrote in my notebook, "Flair over Steiner". Before the bout, they announced Matsuda (representing New Japan Pro Wrestling) and El Gigante (the next #1 contender). Wonder what those two said to each other while seated side by side? When they were both supposed to topple over the ropes, Scott would have been smart to stay in the ring instead of jumping over the ropes. Looked terrible. Best move was the double arm suplex into the powerbomb. I watched it twice after Steve Sims said it was better the second time around and I agree. But what happened to the winner facing Fujinami in Japan? **** $\frac{1}{4}$ NOTES: Please Dusty, come out of retirement. That way, we don't have to listen to you do color anymore. I wanted to turn the volume off after the second match. He didn't shut up. It was like he was the play-by-play guy but all he did was babble. And put himself over. That patriotic speech he gave isn't much worse than what Vince and Hogan are doing. All he did was put himself over....Was Jim Ross trying to emulate Vince at the start of the show? Sounded like he was constipated.....All of a sudden, Missy Hyatt is a face? She picked Tom Zenk to win the sexiest wrestler contest? And she was serious. Another storyline changed.....When Dusty gave his patriotic speel, I was hoping he'd say more than ass so he could get booted off the superstition again.....From Dust, "My critics are going to be giving it to me after tonight." Truer words were never spoken. Wonder if he realized how bad he was.....Couldn't they have gotten a better video segment of Stan vs. Vader? If I was a mark, I wouldn't care to see a match between them after seeing that clip.....Thumbs down. The action wasn't too bad but I can't handle listening to Rhodes. I never realized how important a color guy is.

WWF PRIME TIME SPECIAL REVIEW

1) Hulk Hogan & Tugboat beat Earthquake & Dino Bravo when Hulk pinned Dino. No angle off of this match. Just a blow away bout. Not that hot either. * 2) Hacksaw Duggan beat Sgt. Slaughter via Dq when he clobbered Hack with a chair. Good shot. Hogan came out with Duggan but went back to the dressing room. Sarge took a great bump over the top from a clothesline. Good bumps throughout. Good brawl. After the match, Slaughter took his crop and whipped Duggan until Hogan tried to make the save but got bashed with a chair. ** $\frac{1}{4}$ 3) Legion of Doom over Orient Express when the Roadies used their top rope clothesline on Kato. Tanaka took a nasty 360 off a backdrop and came down face first. This was like a squash until Fuji threw salt in Animal's eyes. All action and the Orients sold their sushi off. *** NOTES: If anyone questioned whether Vince was going to abandon the war angle, you got your answer in the first second when Hogan was shown with troops from Stateside bases....No mention of Iraq or the war until Hogan's in ring interview. They did okay until that point but the analogies of Hogan's arms with patriot missiles and shooting down Slaughter's scuds was a little much for me. It was ironic that while watching the show, I was reading Steve Beverly's editorial in the recent Matwatch. Steve and Dave will have a field day with this show..... Has Warrior already been buried or what. How about at least an interview with the former champ. You have to feel sorry for the guy.

(from page 6)
execution. Do ya think Gary Michael Cappetta announcing Taylor as "The computerized man of the 90's" gave it away at all? Great to see Taylor as a heel again though....And, finally, the big highlights of an otherwise pretty uneventful Clash belonged to Missy Hyatt. (Sorry-couldn't resist!)

RL- Thanks to Jeff for the piece. He called me late in the week to see if I had room. Hey, anytime for you bud! But learn how to spell you. It's not ya here in the states.

SCOTT HUDSON'S.....

GEORGIA WRESTLING JOURNAL

ATTEN-HUT!! Oh, alright, at ease, its only issue thirteen of the USA Today of professional wrestling, The Georgia Wrestling Journal. Let's get busy!..

MACON COLISEUM Macon, Georgia (01-28-91) WWF SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING TV TAPINGS FOR AIR THE WEEKS OF FEBRUARY 9 THROUGH FEBRUARY 23, 1991 (02-09-91)

Koko Ware over Monty Burke..Mr. Perfect over Pez Whatley..Big Bossman over Owen Martin..Sgt. Slaughter over Dale Wolfe..Tito Santana over Ted Oates..The Mountie over Sonny Blaze..(02-16-91)Kerry Von Erich over Darrell Bloodworth..Davey Boy Smith over Mike Wallace..The Barbarian & Haku over Pez Whatley & Jim Powers..The Undertaker over Tommy Angel..Rick Martel over Tommy Landell..The Warlord over David Iseley..(02-23-91)Big Bossman over Mr. Perfect by DQ..Virgil over Haku..Jake Roberts over Terrance Blalock..The Rockers over Ted Oates & Brooklyn Brawler..The Viking over Tommy Landell..Earthquake over William Ford..The Nasty Boys win tag team Battle Royal..

NEWS AND NOTES: First, a disclaimer. Due to the helter-skelter nature of WWF tapings, I cannot assure that the schedule as written is exactly correct..Charlie Norris had a tryout match against Steve Lombardi. Norris was put over using the indian gimmick and the name Johnny Grayfeather..During the Slaughter/Wolfe squash, an "EMT" brought out a stretcher for Wolfe and was promptly pounded by the Sarge. The "EMT" wound up being carried off on the stretcher he brought in..Mountie is using some kind of branding-iron-thing in much the same way Terry Funk did..Brother Love announced that he would no longer manage The Undertaker and turned him over to Brother Paul Bearer (Percy Pringle). This was really well done and Percy looked eerie with jet black hair and moustache. Other Brother Love's taped featured Sgt. Slaughter and Randy Savage..Undertaker is now sprinkling dirt on the fallen jobbers that he pins..Brutus Beefcake, looking for all the world like the long lost Gasper brother, did run-ins following the Martel/Landell and Quake/Ford squashes. Quake actually did a huge stretcher job for Beefcake's headbutt..Hennig was DQ'd against Bossman due to Haku & Barbarian's interference..Piper accompanied Virgil against Haku, who was accompanied by Heenan & Dibiase..The Viking is John "The Barbarian" Nord who has done the viking gimmick to death with all kinds of paraphernalia. He resembles Hagar the Horrible on steroids..Interesting to see Marty Janetty working with Ted Oates in The Rockers' squash. Janetty was trained by Oates and began his career as Marty Oates in Georgia as Ted & Jerry Oates brother..Wrestlemania VII is shaping up to be Hulk Hogan vs. Sgt. Slaughter for the WWF World Championship, Randy Savage vs. The Ultimate Warrior with Warrior retiring if he loses, The Hart Foundation vs. The Nasty Boys for the WWF Tag Team Championship, and Ted Dibiase vs. Roddy Piper with Virgil thrown in somehow..As you no doubt already know, the 02-02-91 NBC "Main Event" special was taped here as well..During the Legion of Doom/Orient Express match for NBC, the LOD appeared and were half-way to the ring, with a BIG pop, when they realized that there was no entrance music. They walked back to the dressing room and reappeared with music but to a much smaller pop..There were two dark matches, The

THE LAST WORD...

Ultimate Warrior and Randy Savage in a DDQ and Rick Martel pinned Jake Roberts..Tag Team Battle Royal had Orient Express, Legion of Doom, Nasty Boys, Bushwackers, Power & Glory, Demolition, and The Rockers..(ATT:7500 approx with heavy paper. Tickets were \$9.50 and for ringside, \$11.50. A big change from the free tapings that I am used to with the NWA.)..By the way, the 01-30-91 Clash sucked!!! Later..

**#1 GEORGIA
TECH.
NATIONAL CHAMPS
1990**

IT'S MY 2-CENTS

by Mike Terry

Problem becomes opportunity: while they like the idea of a mascot, the WWF faces extreme disinterest with the Gobbledygooker. At the same time, damage control may be needed in the wake of Bobby "the Brain" Heenan's arrest on drug charges. So--let's combine the two. We'll make Heenan the mascot, dress him as a fried egg, then we'll distribute pictures with the caption: "This Is Your Brain on Drugs." Rim shot, please Anton.

Moving rapidly along....Jeers to WCW for removing Dutch Mantel from color commentary.....one negative in my mind about the double ring cage match is the difficulty those of us in PPV-land will have keeping track of the action. I have a 29-inch TV screen, yet the action in the Royal Rumble was very difficult to follow from the wide shot necessary to get the entire ring in the picture. When the cameras take close-ups, you miss the rest of the action--inevitably a high spot on the other side of the ring. Now WCW expects to shoot 2 rings--through a cage, no less!!! Seems like we'll all have restricted view seats for this one.

Last month I contended Paul Roma was responsible for 80% of the glitz of Power and Glory. Listen to the commentators--80% of the commentary is about Roma. It's like poor Herc doesn't exist. And why doesn't Power & Glory have theme music?.....How's this for a dream team: Paul Roma and Scott Steiner?!?.....and what do you think of Paul E. for Terry Taylor's manager?

Why is Rhubarb Jones on 2 FM stations in Atlanta? Is he too charismatic for one?.....Wouldn't you like to have heard the last words spoken between Vince & Dusty?

Royal Rumbles: I won't say too much about the magnificent Rockers vs. Orient Express match. Something tells me others have already said all there is to say.....and what went through your mind when Sensational Sherry dropped to her knees in front of the Ultimate Warrior? You too? Another brilliant performance from Sherry..... I never saw the Barbarian wrestle better. And Adnan has never been better lip-reading along with Sarge's interviews. Is it just me, or does Adnan look scared when he's out there with Sarge?.....How do you think Slaughter really feels deep down about his ring role? No doubt he's making more money than he's ever made before or ever will again, but I bet just once on an interview he'd like to shout: "Saddam Hussein--eat sh** and die, you maggot pukel!"

We all know Howard Finkel's mastery of the fine art of ring announcing, but why not let him share the mike on play-by-play or color once in a while on Prime Time or Spotlight matches? They could team him with Sean Mooney and call the team: The Fink and the Dink.....Since Joe Pedocino and Craig Johnson are paired on USWA may I start referring to them as the Laurel and Hardy of pro wrestling?

Surprise of the month: the WWF didn't edit out several 4 Horseman salutes from a crowd shot after a Boris Zhukov vs. Tugboat match on Spotlight. Obviously the producers were so overwhelmed by the sheer brilliance of the match they lost their concentration.....Does Vince really think anyone gives a toot about Tugboat? And why doesn't the WWF have a 900-number?

Great idea, terrible execution: Sullivan's Saloon. "Crazy Guggenheim" Sullivan's all wrong for this role.

Lame Retread Gimmick of the Month, Part 1: Sunday, Jan. 6th on All American--Mean Gene still suffering the effects of a New Year's hangover. Nice image, Meanie. Part 2: the barnyard brigade on All American. Who the hell cares?

Quote of the month: from Bobby Heenan on Prime Time after Mean Gene paid a surprise visit carrying one of Hillbilly Jim's pigs: "I see Okerlund's been on 'Love Connection' again." Encore quote of the month: from Jerry Lawler to Marc Lowrance: "Someone once asked me 'How long can someone live without a brain?' How old are you, Marc?"

The time limit has expired--the referee rules this column is over. Don't sweat it, it's just my 2-cents.

NOTES FROM THE PARKING LOT

By Marianne Ryan

Happy 1991 wrestling fans. I truly hope all that nasty controversy stuff is over. I do want to thank Marilyn Rundle for her continued support. You're welcome to join me in the parking lot anytime. Besides, you're past due on your trip to Chicago. I also want to thank Mike Terry for his encouraging words. The way I look at it, your column is worth at least a dime. As for Evan's comments, perhaps this is a case of great minds thinking alike.

I was trying to decide what to write about this month. I had a collection of odds and ends, but then I thought you readers might enjoy reading about how the wrestlers look at things (how's that for getting into their heads, Evan?). Their perspective is a bit different from that of the fans, and I think you might be surprised by it.

It always amazes me which wrestlers garner the most respect, and which wrestlers the others like to work with or against. Almost all of the wrestlers like and admire Hulk Hogan. For one, he's a nice guy who doesn't flaunt his importance. Secondly, the wrestlers realize that if it wasn't for Hogan, most of them would be doing something else with their lives.

Another guy who is widely respected is Randy Savage. Randy also surprised me more than any other wrestler. He is one of the most talented men in pro wrestling, and one of the greatest heels. He is also one of the hardest working. Not to mention one of the nicest. He is a true gentleman. The kind of guy who calls to see how one of his colleagues is doing when they've been injured. The kind of guy who will help out if someone needs it. And the kind of guy who isn't above panhandling \$20 when he finds himself short of funds. As for Elizabeth, he is so devoted to her, she wishes he would go out more often when he's on the road.

For those of you that think having Sherri as his manager is a bad move, you are among the minority. Sherri and Randy thoroughly enjoy working with each other. Most of the guys think very highly of her too. She is incredibly tough and gives everything she's got when she goes out to the ring. Away from it, she is also a great lady.

Bret Hart is also one of the most respected wrestlers. Most of the guys respect his talent, but they also know him to be one of the nicest, most down-to-earth guys around. He is also very quiet, and a bit shy.

Some of the guys who aren't too highly thought of: Dino Bravo, who would have been gone a long time ago if not for his close ties to Pat Patterson; Lex Luger, whom many feel has more ego than talent; Terry Taylor, who's reputation as a brown nose didn't gain him many friends in the WWF; and to some degree, the Ultimate Warrior. If Hogan can be seen as a big brother whose success has benefited the entire family, the Warrior is the scorned in-law who not only does not like to share the spotlight, but who doesn't even merit most of the attention he has received.

GROUP 1: Koko B Ware, the Barbarian, Greg Valentine, Buddy Rose, Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty, Tito Santana.

GROUP 2: Jim Duggan, Paul Roma and Hercules, Barry Horowitz, the Nasty Boys, the Steiners.

What is the difference between these two groups? The first group is wrestlers the other wrestlers respect in the ring and enjoy working with or against. The second group are those the others don't particularly enjoy working with or against.

Some of the names may surprise you. Names like Koko, Barbarian and the "Playboy" don't often show up on lists of best wrestlers, but other wrestlers do like the way they handle themselves in the ring. Koko is considered one of the toughest guys, and one of the hardest workers. He also knows what he's doing in the ring. Barbarian works an easy match, meaning his opponents don't have to carry the match, and they don't have to worry about getting injured. As for Rose, he is still capable of a good match, when he puts some effort into it.

On the other side, Roma and Hercules are too busy trying to look good to worry about their matches. In the case of Duggan, more often than not, his opponents must carry the match. As for the Steiners and the Nasty Boys, these young stars are seen as being a bit too reckless. The feeling is that one of these days, they are going to seriously hurt themselves or their opponents with one of their wild, innovative moves.

Well, I hope that gives you a little insight to the minds of the wrestlers. I personally want to make note of an event that no one requested and that should not be taking place. That being the return of Jacques "The Mounty" Rougeau. Neither Jacques nor I hide our intense dislike for each other. We have a long and colorful history of mutual hatred. Of course, this should come as good news for all you Missy fans. With Jacques back, I'll be saving most of my cheap shots for him. Until February.

Happy New Year Arena Reportees! It's a fully employed, somewhat overjoyed E.G. here with another piece of my mind...

I honestly feel that with the exception of Joel Goodheart's Philly based indie, 1990 was the worst year ever for wrestling. I attended a grand total of one WWF show, and a handful of NWA shows (most of which were disappointing). As I certainly fit the definition of the "hardcore" fan, you have to realize there's big problems in the rasslin' world if they can't even entice me to go.

Let me give you an example of the psychology involved here. Piper wrestles Hennig at MSG. It's a match I'd love to see. Then I start saying to myself "\$18 for a ticket. \$4.60 carfare. Dinner. A Hogan/Tugboat vs. Bravo/Earthquake main-event from Hell and a mediocre undercard..." As you can see, watching it on MSG Cable begins to look better & better...I'm certainly not the only one who thinks that way as I attended one of wrestling radio talk-show host John Arezzi's functions and several fans expressed the very same feelings. The WWF's lost the hardcores, and the trendy yuppies of the mid-eighties. What they do have are the kiddies, but as the economy worsens, even that will continue to deteriorate. Seeing Dino Bravo is not a necessity; paying the rent is.

It's very interesting attending wrestling fan events. Some adults who are true hardcores have never even heard of the sheets. They looked at my bulletin as if to say "Where are the pictures?" Yet they know wrestling's a work & appreciate it as much as the fans who subscribe to a half dozen bulletins. Now if sheet editors could only somehow tap into that uncharted market we'd really be onto something...

Hope you'll all check out Wrestling-Then & Now's exclusive interview with the widow of Gorgeous George in my Jan. issue. Interesting stuff; also included is the rare 1963 program from George's memorial service. Think you'll find it interesting- \$1.25/\$12 a year to Evan Ginzburg- PO Box 471 Oakland Gdns. Station- Flushing, NY 11364.

You haven't quite experienced everything in life until you've travelled to a wrestling card on a bus full of wrestling fans (in a snowstorm no less!). One guy sang the same Honkey-Tonk Man song 3 times for all to hear (really!). They had "contests" where guys imitated their favorite wrestlers (mostly WWF guys of course). One guy said that Rhythm & Blues was the best tag-team of all time. I would have given out the fliers for WT&N, but as an English teacher, I quickly determined that the average reading level here may very well have been years below that of my sheet & didn't make the effort. Truly surreal...

Quite honestly, if it wasn't for the sheets I'd probably have lost most of my interest in wrestling a long time ago. I actually forgot to watch the WWF last weekend- it just plain didn't cross my mind as it holds absolutely no importance to me anymore. Can't understand why the bulletins even give them such extensive coverage as outside of Wrestlemania I get no sense that anything they do really matters anymore. A Piper turn would rejuvenate my interest but little if anything else would. Hogan-Undertaker? Good brawl maybe. But important? Couldn't envision getting 100,000 people to pay to see it at Wrestlemania...

That about does it gang...hope '91 is great for each and every one of you and that all your wishes come true (yeah, I know it's cliched and corny, but hell, I mean it!).

Oh, yeah...always remember. When you're down and out, don't just whistle a happy tune. Sing "Honkey-Honkey Burning Love" at least 3 times & you'll feel as good as new...

GAG RANDOM MEANDERINGS

Special Feature by Jeff Zinger & J.Z. Travis

Hey!! Let's talk some Clash dudes...Sure missed Paul E. announcing (or Cornette or Caudle, hell, even bloody Ed Whalen-well, maybe that's pushing it-would have been better than the attempt Dusty made!)...Did ya catch that Go-Go's commercial? I hope none of you "AR" readers wear those real manly BUGLE BOY jeans! Mind you, I think Ron Lemieux had a pair on last time I saw him....Does the world really need the NWA six man belts again?....Talk about a lack of heat for Ms Alexandra York- I don't think anybody even noticed her walk out to the ring during the Taylor-Morton match....Speaking of heat, remember the days when the NWA crowds were rabidly noisy while the WWF was lucky to get a (natural) peep? How times have changed- just compare this Clash to the Royal Rumble!....I thought they usually had a Clash to set up (mainly) the main event at the next pay-per-view? Have to assume they were asked to tone down the Wargames angle in light of current affairs. But they sure showed the Wargames commercials enough (aren't you already deathly sick of them?! Where's Elvira when you need her?)....That last comment had nothing to do with female breasts whatsoever....I would think announcing 2-Man as WCW's sexiest wrestler is his kiss of death in the male dominated world of WCW fans....Although circumstances may have dictated this (Rotunda quitting), the Terry Taylor "turn" rivals the Steve Williams in Japan turn a couple of years ago for nonsensical

EDITOR'S PROFILE

I guess this story should start on February 20th, 1962 (that makes me 28 for you mathematicians) where this naive "mark" was born in Providence, RI. I'll give you the basics and then tell you of some of my greatest memories of being a wrestling fan. I have a Bachelor of Arts in Communications degree from the University of Mass./Amherst. Cheryl and I have been married for almost four years and we have one child, Christopher who is 3 months old. I have been in sales since graduation. Currently selling for a national uniform company.

My first experience with wrestling came when I was 9 years old. My 2 brothers and I were watching cartoons on a Saturday morning and my oldest brother Rick wanted Dave to see what else was on. When Dave got to wrestling, Rick told him to keep it on. I started throwing a tantrum until I watched for two seconds. I was hooked. So even though my brothers will deny it, it's their fault I'm where I'm at today. Here are some fun memories:

- The only time I remember crying because of wrestling was 1971 when Bruno Sammartino and Pedro Morales started slugging it out on WWWF TV when Fuji and Tanaka threw salt in their eyes to set up their classic bout at Shea. Here were my two faves hitting each other. Fun days.
- My first live card at Jack Witchi's Sports Arena in North Attleboro, MA. Double main event: Fuji & Tanaka vs. Monsoon & Strongbow and King Curtis & Baron Scicluna vs. Morales & Garea. Witchi's was worse than the Dallas Sportatorium. An old barn that held 2,500 people but it was awesome for wrestling. When I turned 16 and ready to get my license and go to the weekly Friday night shows, the place burned down. My luck.
- My next memorable era was 1980 and my first card at Boston Garden. Bruno vs. Larry Z in a Texas Death Match. I hit every Boston card for 4 years straight but missed one, Tito Santana beating Don Muraco for the I-C Title. My luck again.
- My first job out of college took me from Seekonk, MA (my home from age 11-22) to Long Island, NY (Huntington Station to be exact.) I lived in NY for a year. I attended the mecca (no big deal now right?) MSG for a year and was at the arena when Lou Albano turned babyface. The one mistake I believe Vince Jr. made as he was the heel manager of the 70's.
- I need to backtrack here. While in college I had my first taste of sheets. Tom Burke's Global Wrestling was my first newsletter at age 19. A visit to Tom's house in nearby Springfield was a treat. Seeing Pedro's belt on display was a highlight that I've mentioned too many times to count. Being able to strap it on two years ago on another visit to his house shows I still have the mark in me. Tom bought Pedro's belt at a pawn shop in NY. Seems my ex-fave was a big time gambler and needed some cash.
- Back to NY. Two friends and I went to Nassau Coliseum to watch WRESTLEMANIA on closed circuit. After the show, we were outside wearing Piper T-shirts and being obnoxious. (A few Buds did that to us. Hey, I was still a kid.) Needless to say, we got in a little tiff in the parking lot. My jaw reminded me the next morning.
- I was at the Meadowlands for the first NWA/AWA card with the tag battle royal won by Sgt. Slaughter (How ironic to talk about him.) when partner Crusher Blackwell didn't clear the physical.
- 1985-1987 took me to Dallas, TX and probably my most memorable period. My first Wrestling Observer in April of '86. (A milestone in anyone's "smart" fan career)...Being at the Cotton Bowl for the Kevin & Kerry match vs. Adams & Gino "Hair vs. Hair"....Breaking the news of the disappearance of Mike Von Erich and subsequent suicide to the Observer, Wrestling Forum, and Mat Results....Hearing on the radio on my way to work the death of Gino Hernandez... The latter two items were hard to take. Even though I was never a big Von Erich fan, being at the Sportatorium the Friday after Mike was found was important. Listening to Kevin speak in the ring brought a tear to everyone's eye. And if it didn't, you weren't human....The highlight of living in Dallas was attending the UWF Power Pro tapings. Me and Cheryl had first row seats for every show. Even the squashes were fun. I met Cheryl in Dallas and all she knew about wrestling was Hulk Hogan but she enjoyed the Ft. Worth shows. Don't ask about now. She tolerates it, put it that way....I saw the combined UWF/NWA show at Reunion Arena with The Roadies & Bill Watts vs. the Freebirds. What a brawl.....
- 1987 saw me back up north living in Connecticut. The only real memorable event of those years was actually the first get together I ever attended.

It was the UAWF convention in Memphis, TN where I got to meet sheet editors, a names that I had seen in letters pages. It was also the place where I was awarded the 1988 Correspondent of the Year award.

- September 9, 1988 was a landmark date as it was the first issue of Arena Report ever published. Looking back at that issue I have to say I was pretty goofy.
- 1989 brought us to Florida. Some of the highlights so far have been numerous. Meeting Klon who has become more than just another "smart" fan to go to the shows with. And it's great that Cheryl and his wife Elaine get along so well. So what if all they do is complain about our hobby to each other. (Hey Hudson, I hope you and Debbie buy a mansion because we're all coming up for the Olympics)...Other notes: Attending the 1990 Rumble with Dave and Erin (Hey Erin, wake up.), the Rumble this year with Bowdren, Flaherty, and their gang, and the megga highlight took place in Baltimore at the Bash get together. Truly the ultimate. Hopefully, we'll do it again this year.

This ended up being alot longer than expected. Hope I made it enjoyable reading. I know there will be many more enjoyable moments to add to this collection. Thanks to all of you that have made this a very enjoyable project and if I listed names, I'd leave out someone I didn't mean to, so, you know who you all are.

CORRESPONDENT'S CORNER

Charleston Civic Center (WCW) Charleston, WV January 13, 1991
Correspondent: Leonard Sims

1) Allen Iron Eagle over Moondog Rex. 2) Junkyard Dog pinned The Minotaur. So much for his push. Not that he deserved one. 3) Southern Boys beat Master Blasters. 4) Michael Wallstreet downed Terry Taylor. 5) Steiner Brothers defended their U.S. tag straps beating the Freebirds. 6) Sting beat Ric Flair via DQ. Flair pinned Sting but ref caught his foot on the ropes so ordered bout restarted and Ric threw Sting over top rope. ATT: 1,500

Memorial Hall (WCW) Kansas City, KS January 18, 1991
Correspondent: Bruce Grummert

1) Norman beat a guy who set up the ring. (?) He replaced Horowitz. 2) Minotaur pinned Allen Iron Eagle in a dead match. 3) Ricky Morton & Tommy Rich over State Patrol who subbed for Landell & Mantell. Rich looked pissed throughout bout. 4) Junkyard Dog pinned Iron Sheik in a short terrible bout. Lucky it was short. 5) Southern Boys downed Master Blasters. 6) Brian Pillman over Big Cat. Pretty dull. 7) Steiners over Freebirds in a fast paced tag bout. 8) Flair pinned Sting in 24 minutes. Ric told ref Pee Wee Anderson that if he didn't count, he'd be working for McMahon. Not a bad proposition. Probably make more money. ATT: 2,200

UIC Pavillion (WCW) Chicago, IL January 20, 1991
Correspondent: Steve Sims

1) Tim Horner used a sunset flip in 7:19 to beat Bill Irwin. * $\frac{1}{2}$ 2) Bobby Eaton and Tom Zenk went to a fifteen minute draw. Worst match Steve has seen Bobby in. * 3) Michael Wallstreet used the ropes to pin Terry Taylor in 7:55. ** 4) Brad Armstrong russian leg swept Moondog Rex in 5:41. $\frac{1}{4}$ * 5) Steiners over Freebirds when Scott hit Garvin with the Frankensteiner and Rick made the pin in 9:47. ** $\frac{1}{4}$ 6) Lex Luger over Sid Vicious via count out in 5:23 when Sid goes to ram Lex into the post but Luger reverses it and Lex jumps back in to beat the count. Afterwards, Sid attacks Luger and several faces try to make the save but Sid leaves them all laying. ** 7) Doom beat Barry Windham & Arn Anderson in 3:50 when Simmons hit Arn with one of the title belts and pinned him. Good match but too short. ** $\frac{1}{2}$ 8) Ric Flair beat Sting in 24:15 with the scew job finish I explained last issue. Sting backdropped Ric over the top rope. *** $\frac{1}{4}$ for match but -** for finish. ATT: 1,300

Hammerjacks Night Club (5-Star Wrestling) Baltimore City, MD January 25, 199
Correspondent: Bruce Ginevan

1) Little Louie pinned Pepper Gonzales in a midget match. F 2) Barry Hardy beat Jammin Joe. D 3) Heidi Lee Morgan over Rusty Fox in a ladies match. Lots of missed moves. F 4) Paul Orndorff & S.D. Jones beat The Samoans, Afa & Sika via DQ when the Samoans headbutted the ref. F ATT: 300 Faces in the crowd: Nicolai Volkoff, Craig Johnson, & Axl Rotten. No shows were Kamala & Malibu.

Correspondent: Bruce Grummert

1) The Mountie used the ropes to pin Tito Santana. 2) Greg Valentine beat Koko Ware in a match that the highlight was Frankie shitting all over the mat. 3) Hacksaw Duggan defeated Sgt. Slaughter via count out when Sarge simply left the ring. 4) Hart Foundation over Power & Glory in a fai bout. 5) Kerry Von Erich pinned Ted DiBiase when Virgil held Ted's foot down. 6) Jake Roberts beat Rick Martel via DQ in 5:08 when Rick sprayed the junk into Jake's eyes. Jake DDT'd Koko Ware for his efforts to help. 7) Rockers beat Demolition in 9:08. 8) Randy Savage over Ultimate Warrior in a steel cage. Sherri ran into the ring and while Warrior was distracted and ripping her clothes off, Randy got out of the cage. ATT: 5,500

Baltimore Arena (WCW)

Baltimore, MD

February 1, 1991

Correspondent: Bruce Ginevan

1) Brad Armstrong over Moondog Rex. F 2) Bobby Eaton and Tom Zenk went to a draw. C 3) Brian Pillman used a flying body press to beat Big Cat. F 4) Doom downed the Southern Boys when Reed pinned Smothers. C 5) Terry Taylor came out and said his opponent no-showed (Rotunda). He was acting cocky and Brad Armstrong came out and took the challenge but Terry beat him. D 6) Steiner Brothers beat Barry Windham & Arn Anderson when Doom came to the ring and brawled with Arn outside the ring. Inside, Scott used the frankensteiner to pin Barry. B 7) Sting and Lex Luger over Ric Flair & Sid Vicious via DQ when Sid brought a chair into the ring and threw the ref down when he tried to take it away. Sting & Lex wouldn't sell garbage. D ATT: 2,800

Boston Garden (WWF)

Boston, MA

February 2, 1991

Correspondent: Louie Fortuna

1) Barbarian beat Koko Ware with a hotshot in 8:17. 2) Hacksaw Duggan used a spear to defeat Gen. Adnon in :48. 3) Undertaker beat Tugboat in 4:45 when he dropped an elbow from the middle of the top rope. 4) Roddy Piper over Curt Hennig in 12:41 on a count out in a ****. 5) Nasty Boys defeated The Rockers in 20:38. Saggs hit Michaels with his boot and scored the pin. 6) Big Boss Man used the sideslam to beat Haku in 7:20. 7) Bushwhackers beat Demolition on a DQ in 9:09. Demo were DQ'd for doubleteaming. 8) Sgt. Slaughter beat Ultimate Warrior in a cage at 12:53. The sarge subbed for Randy Savage who it was announced had a bum ankle. Sherri got involved in the finish distracting Warrior so Slaughter could leave the cage. ATT: 8,500

LETTERS TO "AR"Sheet Wars

Contrary to many people, I don't believe these so called "sheet wars" are bad. I respect your not wanting to get into it however.

The reasons why these "wars" are not bad are many. First of all, they promote interest in other sheets. When references are made in one sheet to a battle in another, I'd venture a guess that that subscriptions would increase.

Another reason "sheet wars" aren't bad is the obvious constitutional rights of freedom of the press. Lance actually can only spar with Marianne in "AR" because he doesn't have a column there but she does. That's the only way readers can get both sides of the story. Who knows if she even gets Chokehold to read Lance's inevitable reply.

A final reason supporting the existance of sheet battles is the fact that nothing else exciting happened in the wrestling scene in 1990. Hell, I voted "Sheet Wars '90" the third best angle in my Torch poll, that's how boring everything is.

I also buy the notion that the smart fans are a community and should band together, as I'm slowly meeting more and more of the great people like the Kellers, Sims, and now you. But every group will have people who don't get along, so what's the problem?

Personally, I haven't read enough of Ryan to form an opinion yet. However, I don't think Lance Levine should be crucified for his views either. Lance's style is "shoot from the hip" and bound to offend people. I've been with Chokehold since issue one and it has gone from a sheet I used to take for granted to high levels of excellance in sarcasm and has broken new ground through the use of motifs, such as the current prison/Black Scorpion one.

I respect the right of you to keep the image of your sheet clean, and because I work for a newspaper, I understand that an editor must work to soothe the egos of his reporters and maintain control. However, Lance, as well as Marianne, have a right to their opinion, even if one of them does GBH.

Eric Krol

Orland Hills, IL

Harry White?

Was it true that after Starcade in St. Louis, Harry White was out hobnobbing about in the back seat of a Ford Escort with Bill Mulkey or Randy Hogan?

John Lanigan
McKeesport, PA

RL- Boy, and Harry was telling everyone it was Ric Flair.

What Gall

Listen up folks! It occurs to me that some of you may be pissed at Ron and so, I figured I would submit this note. Some weeks after the event, I am not only no longer unhappy about this but, in fact, may have to thank Ron for providing me the inspiration for me to get off my ass and do my own stuff. Which, in fact, I will do, in a short while. Yes there was alot of misunderstandings; yes, I was hurt at the time and no, it wasn't handled properly. By either of us. I do wish that Ron had handled things differently but I wish I had as well. It's over and forgotten, at least as far as I'm concerned.

As far as other "AR" people: as far as I am aware, I have no feud with Klon..Nor with anyone. As for Mike Terry--well, I have as little use for his column as he has for mine. His crack bothered me none at all.

Rodney Leighton
Pugwash, Nova Scotia

RL- See the title of this letter? That's how I feel. Seems hard to believe you've forgotten you no longer writing for "AR" when every column I read from you in other sheets has you whining about it. And sliding in some shots at me on the side. Maybe it's because since you're starting your own sheet, you realize you need as many allies as you can get. Well, keep writing columns like your last one in RIOT. Let's see, you bashed Meltzer, Bowdren, Mullins, Klon, myself, and someone else I can't remember. Way to make friends. That's some pretty respected list of people in the sheet biz. Hurts your credibility a bit, no? As far as people being pissed at me for letting you go, well, I haven't heard from 1. I welcome them to let themselves be heard. Everyone has their own opinions. This is the last you'll hear from me about this mess. I wasn't even going to say anything about your letter in Tramel, but you had the balls to write me. Well, cross me off your list of allies pal.

RAMBLINGS

Well, the first repercussion of the Slaughter-Iraq angle has hit. And it's a doozy. The L.A. Coliseum has cancelled the date for WRESTLEMANIA. If you call the box office at this time, they'll deny it. But it has been done. No official reason given but it is said it has to do with security worries. They will now hold it at the L.A. Sports arena which holds about 15,000. And since they had about 20,000 tickets sold, some refunds will have to be given. It's about time Vince gets screwed.....In another arena incident, The WWF will no longer be allowed into the Meadowlands. Vince gave them an ultimatum. Either throw out WCW or he wouldn't book the arena. The Meadowlands said, "See ya".....Randy Savage broke his toe, thus the reason for the no shows. He should be back in two weeks.....I was told the reason Sid will be pushed heavily is because he will feud with...Dusty Rhodes on the Bash tour..... Don't believe it? Here's a quote from the Dream who appeared on Coach Kirk's call in show a week ago when asked if all he would be doing is booking. "I'm going to be rasslin'. I'm the shot, the booster they need. I'm going to be bookin', but rasslin' too." Looks like we're in for a fun time..... Speaking of Dusty, I have to go back to a conversation I had with Dave about 2 weeks ago. We were wondering why Vince would let Rhodes out of his contract 7 months early. Especially when he won't let Rick Rude out. Could Dusty be the second paid confidant to Vince concerning the NWA. I still believe George Scott was the first. If Herd and the rest of the big wigs don't even suspect a thing, they better be on their guards.....2/2 in Springfield saw Slaughter beat Warrior, Piper over Adnon, Undertaker pinned Duggan, and Nasties go to a draw with Rockers. Crowd was 4,500.....They finally recognized the TV title change. Talk about exposing the biz.....Barry and Arn vs. Horner & Armstrong topped the weekends matches. Excellant bout.....The reason Sam Houston is in the WWF is because he went to WCW and asked for \$million bucks after Brian Pillman talked him up to be worth that much. WCW got pissed and wanted him to do a job for Taylor at the tapings the following night. He left thinking he was too good to job. So now he's doing jobs for Barbarian. Pillman must be Sam's friend heh?.....People that asked for plugs will get them next time out. Once more, I'm overloaded. See you in two weeks with WWF taping news. Till then, enjoy the screwing Vince gets. See ya,

Ron